

*Missouri Governor's Council on Disability
&
The Missouri Planning Council for
Developmental Disabilities*

Presents

**Missouri Youth Leadership
Forum for Students with
Disabilities - 2004**



with support from

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
The Fourteen Fund, the Charitable Trust of the St. Louis Blues
Missouri Centers for Independent Living (MOCIL)
University of Missouri Kansas City - Institute for Human Development
The Whole Person, Inc.

What is the Youth Leadership Forum?

The Youth Leadership Forum for students with disabilities (YLF) is a unique career leadership-training program for **high school juniors and seniors with disabilities**. By serving as *delegates* from their communities at a three and half day event, young people with disabilities cultivate leadership, citizenship, and social skills.

The program was developed by the California Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons in 1992. The Office of Disability Employment Policy seeks to replicate this initiative around the nation. The YLF is implemented at the state level by state and local partners.

The Missouri Governor Council on Disability and the Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities are the major partners in the Missouri Youth Leadership Forum 2004. This leadership forum will be the only one designed for students with disabilities in Missouri.

How are delegates selected for the forum?

The *delegates* are chosen through a statewide competition that seeks students with disabilities who have leadership potential. Each applicant submits a standard form, an essay, and three (3) letters of recommendation. The group that is selected is representative of the state in terms of geography, gender, economic status, ethnicity, and different types of disabilities.

Cost and Location: There is no fee charge to the student to attend the forum. Students will be staying at the University of Missouri accessible dorm in Columbia, Missouri. Students will be responsible for their own transportation to Columbia, MO. Start date is July 25, 2004 and ending July 28, 2004.

What is the agenda?

1. Leadership Principles and Their Application
2. The Disability Experience and Resource Sharing
3. Assistive Technology and Resources
4. The Development and Achievement of Career Goals and Independent Living
5. Developing Advocacy Skills

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS IS
April 2, 2004**

Once you complete the application please send to:
Missouri Youth Leadership Forum-2004
Governor's Council on Disability
PO Box 1668
Jefferson City, MO 65102

For questions contact : Linda Baker Oberst at 314-821-7151, 800-877-8249 (v/tty) or
linda.oberst@dolir.mo.gov

www.dolir.mo.gov/gcd

****Please feel free to use additional paper if necessary****

**Nominations for Student Delegates will not be accepted after April 2, 2004.
Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

NAME _____ SOCIAL SECURITY # _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTY: _____ RACE (optional): _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDING _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNSELOR'S NAME _____ SCHOOL PHONE _____

GRADE LEVEL ON MARCH 2004 _____ EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE _____

QUESTIONS TO BE COMPLETED

1. Please describe your disability. This information is to assure that the delegates represent a variety of disabilities.

☐ Mobility ☐ Hearing ☐ Visual ☐ Learning

☐ Cognitive ☐ Health ☐ Emotional/Behavior

☐ Other _____

2. Please state what accommodations will be needed to participate in the forum. (interpreter, attendant, special diet, etc.)

3. Please submit a list of school & community extracurricular activities. (ie. memberships, volunteer activities, etc.) Keep brief.

4. Please attach three (3) letters of recommendations from individuals such as: teacher, counselor, pastor, supervisor, coach, etc. These recommendations can describe your leadership qualities or potential. Please include their names & contact information below
5. Please submit a **typed** essay of 250 words describing yourself and why you think you will be a good candidate for this forum. What do you hope to gain from this experience? What will you bring to this experience? **(The advisory committee will place significant emphasis on this question)** Here are some are thoughts or considerations in writing the essay.
- **Qualifications:** Why do you think you are qualified and why do you want to attend.
 - **Positive Influences:** Tell us about someone who has provided you with a positive influence and why? (Examples are: FAMILY MEMBERS, TEACHERS, COUNSELORS, PUBLIC FIGURES)
 - **Your experience as a person with a disability:** Describe at least one important experience you have had as a person with a disability.
 - **Future plans :** Please describe your plans after high school graduation.

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Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
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